

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/828,861

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 11-13, 17, 18, 21-23, 27-29, 33, 34, 37-39 and 43-45 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice.

New claims 49-62 have been added to further define Applicants' claimed invention.

As a result, claims 3, 4, 8-10, 14-16, 19-20, 24-26, 30-32, 35-36, 40-42, 46-48 and 49-62 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner has stated that claims 3, 4, 8-10, 14-16, 19, 20, 24-26, 30-32, 35, 36, 40-42 and 46-48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, they should now be allowable.

The Examiner has also made several objections to the specification and claims.

Applicants have amended the specification and claims to address these objections.

New claims 49-57 should be allowable at least based on their dependence from their respective independent claims.

New claims 58-62 should be allowable at least for reasons similar to claim 8-10, 14 and 15. Our proposed specification and claim amendments are set forth in the enclosed Appendix.

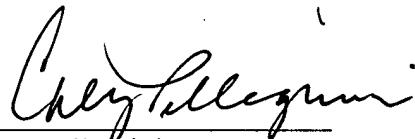
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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